

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 6 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10, and 12-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10, and 12-14 are amended, and claims 1, 5, 7, 9, and 11 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Specifically, allowable claim 2 is amended into independent form; claim 3 is amended to include features of canceled claim 1 and allowable claim 2, as well as to depend from claim 2; claim 10 is amended to depend from claim 3; and claims 6, 8, 10, and 12-14 are amended to correct various informalities. Furthermore, the drawings are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12-14 contain allowable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons described below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10, and 12-14 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action objects to the drawings because, in Fig. 6, the input lines into the cascaded CAMs are not labeled. Fig. 6 is amended to label the input line into the cascaded CAMs as "HIT, FULL, PASS," so as to obviate the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 13 is amended, and claim 1 is canceled, so as to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §112, second paragraph, rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshizawa (Japanese Patent Publication No. 2001-236790) in view of Pereira (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,793); rejects claims 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Yoshizawa in view of Pereira and further in view of Lyon (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,812); and rejects claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshizawa in view of Pereira in view of Lyon and further in view of Khanna (U.S. Patent No. 6,393,514). The rejections as they pertain to canceled claims 1, 5, 7, 9, and 11 are now moot. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the §103(a) rejection as it pertains to claim 3.

Specifically, allowable claim 2 is amended into independent form, and claim 3 is amended to depend from allowable independent claim 2.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10, and 12-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:BAZ/hs

Attachments:

Replacement Sheet (Fig. 6)
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 28, 2006

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